

**DOCKET NO.:** VERT-0003  
**Application No.:** 10/087,363  
**Office Action Dated:** June 17, 2004

**PATENT**

**Amendments to the Drawings**

The attached sheet(s) of drawings includes changes to Fig(s) 1-23. In particular, reference numerals, corresponding to those added to the specification, have been added to the respective figures. The sheet(s), which includes Fig(s) 1-23, replaces the original sheet(s) including Fig(s) 1-23.

Attachment: replacement sheet(s)

# Neutral Tandem Customers

# NEUTRAL TANDEM™

**..T..Mobile™**

Get more from life



**Level 3®** The Network Partner You Can Rely On.™

**x cingular**  
fits you best™



**NEXTEL**

**McLeodUSA**



**FOCAL**

**U.S. Cellular**



ICG



Alliance



PAETEC



**CIMCO**



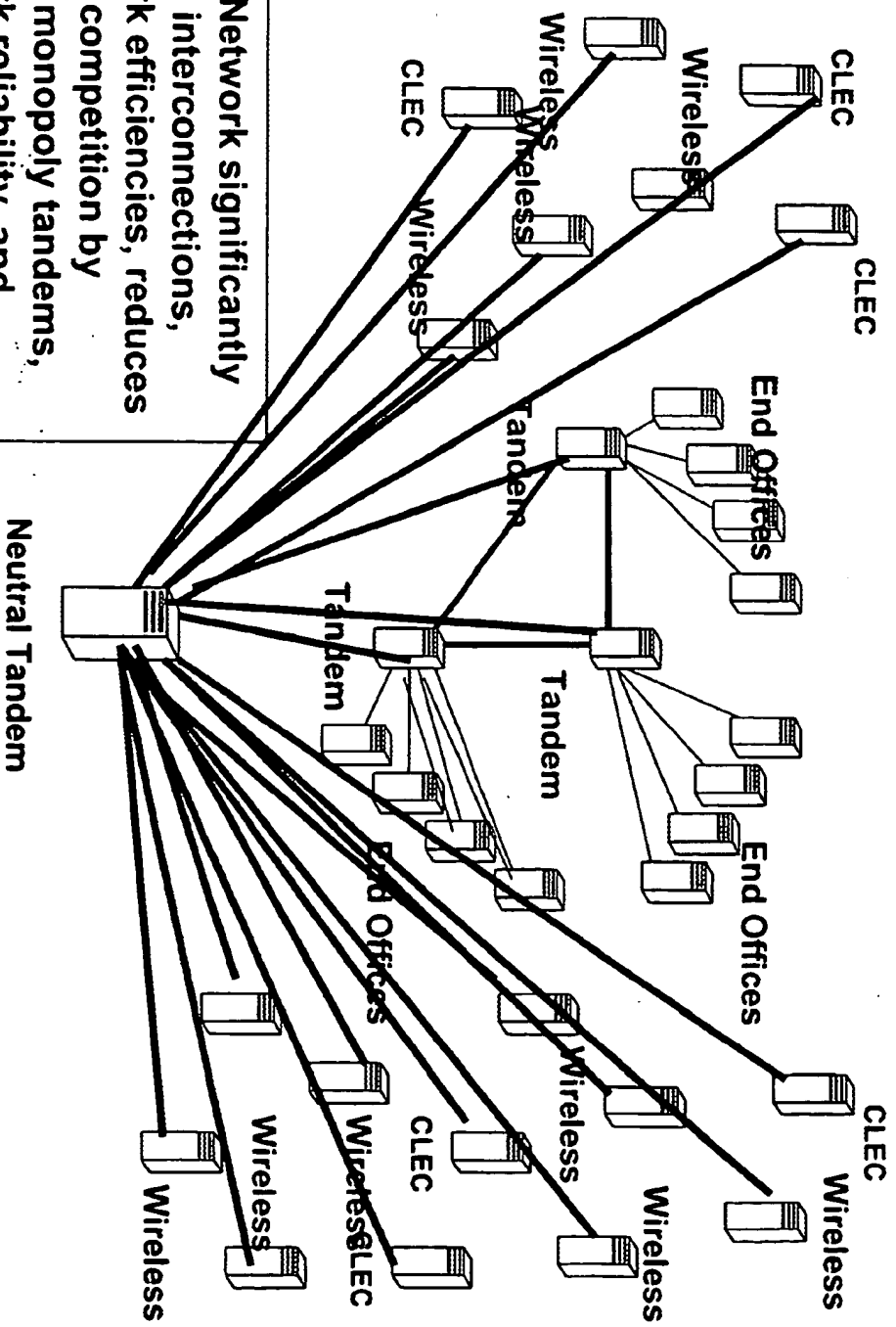
9/7/2004

Proprietary and Confidential

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# Neutral Tandem Network

**NEUTRAL TANDEM™**



Neutral Tandem Network significantly reduces network interconnections, improves network efficiencies, reduces costs, enhances competition by minimizing ILEC monopoly tandems, improves network reliability, and enables efficient protocol conversion.

9/7/2004

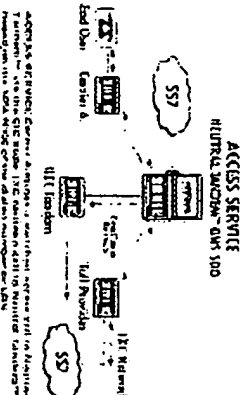
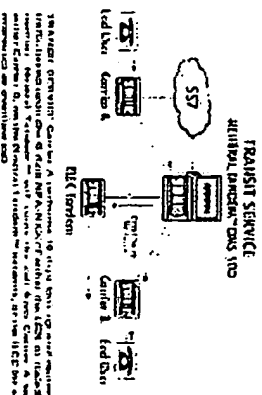
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# Neutral Tandem Marketing

NEUTRAL TANDEM™

## Transit and Access



Neutral Tandem™'s custom routing service provides customized transit and access between competitive carriers over its tandem switching network.

### Routing

Following an LNP query by the customer, transit traffic is routed through the Neutral Tandem™ network using 8-digit (NPA-NXX) routing or other two digit number or Local Routing Number (LRN).

Access calls terminating to long distance providers are routed via a CIC code, and access calls terminating from long distance carriers are routed via 8-digit routing of the digit number or LRN.

### Network

Neutral Tandem™'s nationwide network is composed of competitive carriers providing (CAP) to connect you to the network. The Neutral Tandem™ network consists of dual SS7 connections, multi-protocol Neutral switching, and industry leading exchange members.

### Capacity

Neutral Tandem™ helps you manage capacity, eliminate network congestion, and improve customer service. If for any reason capacity is not available, Neutral Tandem™ will overflow the call for completion. Call 1-800-NEUTRAL (1-800-686-7251).

Make every minute count.

NEUTRAL  
A N O E M

9/7/2004

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**Neutral:** Technically independent, not part of a proprietary network (i.e., with end users)

**Tandem:** A physical network topology where connectivity between circuits is achieved by linking several locations together in a chain using private line circuits. \*

**Network:** An integrated platform consisting of switch(es) and circuits overlaying ILEC and competitive carrier switches

\* Newton's Telecom Dictionary 1998

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# Neutral Tandem Vs. Prior Art

## NEUTRAL TANDDEM™

<u>Features*</u>	<u>Neutral Tandem</u>	<u>Prior Art</u>
Independent Network (not part of proprietary network or competitor)	Yes	No
Single Point of Connection	Yes	No
Multiple Protocols (e.g., TDM/IP, Ethernet)	Yes	No
Various Interfaces—"Fat Pipes" (DS3, OC3)	Yes	No
Mix Traffic Types Over Connections (e.g., Local, LD)	Yes	No
Includes Transport with Tandem Switching (i.e, complete network)	Yes	No
Interconnects Public and Private Carriers	Yes	No

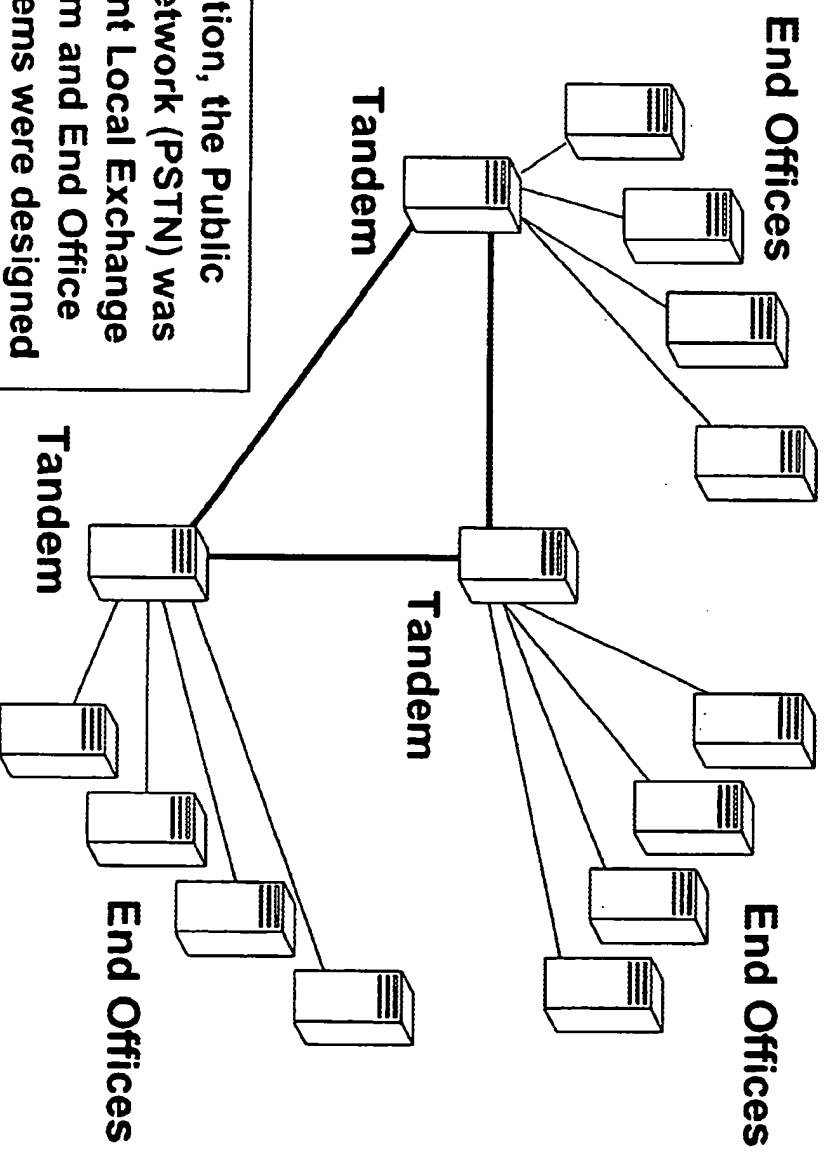
\* Not exhaustive

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# ILEC Tandem Network (Prior Art) **NEUTRAL TANDEM™**



Before local competition, the Public Switch Telephone Network (PSTN) was made up of Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier (ILEC) Tandem and End Office switches. ILEC Tandems were designed to route traffic between ILEC switches.

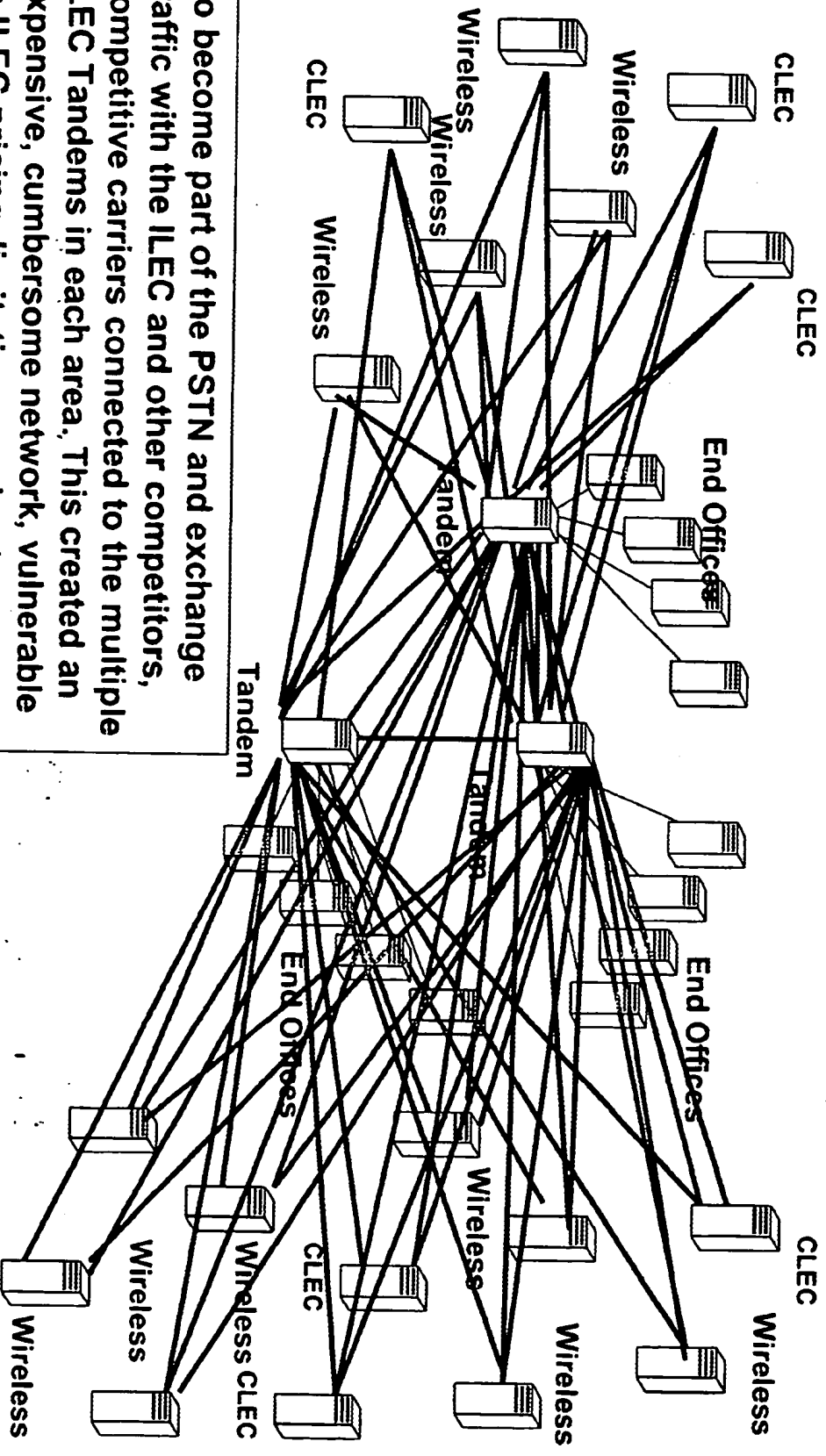
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# Current ILEC Tandem Network

## NEUTRAL TANDEM™



To become part of the PSTN and exchange traffic with the ILEC and other competitors, competitive carriers connected to the multiple ILEC Tandems in each area. This created an expensive, cumbersome network, vulnerable to ILEC pricing, limitations, and outages.

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